



**BRIGADIER GENERAL L. NEIL THURGOOD**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY**



Brigadier General L. Neil Thurgood is the Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He is responsible for the development, production, fielding, and life cycle management of the Army's missile and space related systems.

Brigadier General Thurgood enlisted in the Army in April 1983 as a Private First Class. He received a commission in 1986 as a Distinguished Military Graduate in Army Aviation from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. He graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelors degree in Business Management and Communication. He holds a Masters degree in Systems Management from the Naval Post-Graduate School, a Masters in Strategic

Studies, a Doctorate in Strategic Business and Leadership, and several professional certificates.

Brigadier General Thurgood began his Officer service as a Platoon Leader in the 213th Combat Aviation Company, "Blackcats" at Camp Humphreys, Korea. In March 1989, he was transferred to the XVIII Airborne Corps – "Pachyderms" at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While at Fort Bragg, he served as a Flight Platoon Leader, Company Operations Officer, and Battalion Training Officer (S-3). In 1992, he was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course. Upon completion, Brigadier General Thurgood volunteered for an assignment with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) "NightStalkers" at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As a "NightStalker" he served as a Platoon Leader/Company Operations Officer and Company Commander. He later completed an assignment in the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM) where he served as Assistant Program Manager for Training Devices and Flight Simulation programs, supporting the simulation efforts of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). Brigadier General Thurgood later served with the Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) in Alexandria, Virginia. He served in several program offices in PEO Aviation, with his last assignment as the Project Manager for Utility Helicopters. He then served on the Secretariat staff as the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)). Prior to becoming the Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space he served as the Deputy Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space.

Brigadier General Thurgood's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLC), Air Medal (3), and other Army commendation and achievement medals. He is a Senior Army Aviator, parachutist and graduate of the Air Assault and Pathfinder Courses.

Brigadier General Thurgood is married to the former Shauna Smith. They have 2 children; Kirsten and Jessica, and one grandchild.